To ensure proper sizing and removal of extraneous material, Coal Handling Plants are being constructed at the collieries. Besides, several other steps have also been taken for improving the quality which include;

(i) Setting up of an independent quality control organisation in each coal company.

(ii) Breaking up of oversized coal and segregation of extraneous material by manual means where CHPs do not exist.

(iii) The Coal Controller, as an independent authority has been given powers to determine the grades of coal seams in the mines as also of the coal supplied to the consumers. He has powers to take samples and arrange their testing suo-moto or on complaint from any consumer. The Coal Controller's decision in the matter is final.

Setting up of drug authority

889. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1322 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the Drug Authority has since been set up by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details regarding its constitution and functions and

(c) if the Authority has not been set up, what are the reasons for the delay in setting up of such a machinery for implementation of the New Drug Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The new measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of drugs and pharmaceutical industry which were announced in December, 1986 envisage setting up of a National Drug and Pharmaceutical Authority (NDPA) with the objective of ensuring rational use of drugs by adequately testing their therapeutic efficacy. The time frame for setting up of NDPA, is one year.

Delicensing Scheme for the bulk drugs

890. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring all new bulk drugs and related formulations developed in the country under the Delicensing Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the drug industry has agreed to make available the drugs intended to be used by weaker and vulnerable sections of the society; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) All new bulk drugs and related formulations developed through indigenous research have been brought under delicensing in the new measures announced in Dec. '86

(c) and (d) Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association (IDMA), Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Pharmaceutical and Allied Products Manufacturers & Distributors Association (PAMDAL) and All India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO) have given a memorandum indicating their willingness to make available essential drugs at reduced prices to Government hospitals, provided certain additional incentives in the shape of increase in post-tax return, packaging charges, trade margins etc. (to be absorbed in the prices) are given to the industry.